CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE

BULLETIN

142 SPARKS STREET, OTTAWA

VOL. 2, NO. 9 SEPTEMBER, 1956

Nelson Division - Class shows (left) the children "baton twirling" after the film on this subject had been shown.

(We heard about a successful children's film program in British Columbia. We asked a correspondent for a written account of the children's program in the Kootenays. We were sure that people in the rest of Canada would be interested, so here's the story.) Bulletin editor.

A significant project in the realm of children and the movie medium is taking giant strides ahead in the Kootenay area of British Columbia -- a project that last season involved a total audience of 18,000 children and served twelve centres stretching from Castlegar in the west to Cranbrook in the east.

The program was undertaken as an experiment in pooled program planning by Bill Orr, N.F.B. District Representative, three years ago. This June the first all-children's conference on "Movies for Children" was held. More than fifty delegates attended from the Kootenay centres and mapped out a 1956-1957 program which is expected to result in a total audience attendance of 25,000.

A closer look at the program will give some idea of the participation of the children and the extent of program planning.

Each season one central Council takes on the planning for the entire area, with assistance and coordination from Mr. Orr. As soon as one program season ends, plans begin for the season ahead.

Take the 1956-57 series. The cities of Rossland, Grand Forks, Castlegar, Nelson, Creston and Cranbrook will join in, along with neighbouring smaller communities. Such small settlements could never support a similar undertaking by themselves, but banded together, their residents have as much say in the planning as a large urban centre that could possibly contribute $500.

The support has been outstanding, Mr. Orr affirms. Theatre managers, Parent-Teacher Association leaders, school principals, are behind the project 100 per cent.

Programs are planned for the age group of five to fourteen. Unless an age limit is set, the program tends to turn into a baby-sitting session, and the original purpose is nullified.

Democracy is in action also, as the children themselves take an active role. They sit on the planning committee, with one member chosen as the children's director. Adults act solely in a supervisory capacity. The children have their own work crews, sweepers, ticket takers and salesmen. Contests and stunts which blend with the films are extremely popular, and draw a genuine response from the crowds of youngsters.

Announcements are made by the children's officers from the high school stage or the theatre platform.

Last season when films on music were arranged, the children's school band introduced various instruments to the children, played simple melodies and were enthusiastically applauded by their members.

CHILDREN'S FILM SOCIETY
Cranbrook Film Council Division

Film arrangements are carefully planned in consultation with elementary school teachers who sit in on the planning talks.

"A balanced program is what we strive for," says Ron Keillor, program director, a high school student of 16 who composes numbers and arranges contests for the series. One and a half hours is considered maximum time for each program, with an assortment of art, nature studies, wildlife and the occasional children's feature.

"We allow at least ten minutes actual participation time in each program so that the child can feelhe belongs to the group and that this is his very own program."

More participation is already on the books for this year, through a geography quiz. On seven programs a geography film will be shown and a map, especially designed, will be marked for the answers. At the end of the season, prizes will be awarded the "Know Your Canada" winners.

The central planning body, although coordinating finances and programming, leaves each community scope for initiative in its own project. Printed programs arrive from the central office, as well as films and membership cards, but actual performance is up to the members of the newly formed Children's Film Society. For example, Cranbrook holds its programs at the local theatre, renting the auditorium for the season and running the project with the help of the Youth Welfare Committee. Use of films may be entirely different from point to point, with more emphasis on participation in the larger centres.

Cooperation of the schools has been magnificent. Membership tickets are sold from the school offices, and talks on the programs are given by the teachers themselves. Each child holds his own membership ticket and his own program, printed in an attractive style.

An up-to-date list of participants has been kept over a three-year period, and it is surprising to note the number of repeaters in that time.

A survey taken three years ago at the start of the venture indicated that children preferred wild western comedies. Three years of showing documentary titles to this group has produced a marked change in taste. At the top of the 1956 list were:

1. Wildlife films
2. Aesop fable type films
3. Entertainment films for children
4. Artistic and abstract art

The program has grown rapidly overthe three seasons, and the 1956-57 season is calculated to prove that the documentary film made for children can not only entertain and hold enthusiastic attention but can also mould character. Children can recall films to their parents; they can understand and relive experiences. They are in a truly children's environment. The over-excitement and the terrifying experiences of the adult world are missing, and a creative experience has been awakened.

There is a quality and value to this program which is now being felt in other communities, in other age groups. To the communities of Crescent Valley, Tarrys and Kinnaird, the program has proved a boon to education and enlightenment. Doukhobor children at Tarrys and Crescent Valley are turning out for films they can identify with their own interests and loves. Films on painting, sports and crafts have aroused a new interest in these hamlets.

To-day probably more than 150 people are involved in this program — in promotion, in planning, in designing. P.T.A. groups are given special promotion programs.

Cost will be in the neighbourhood of $1,500. this year, including film rentals and programs. This sum is divided between the four large centres and the smaller communities they serve. Crescent Valley may contribute only $90., yet will receive the same service as Nelson which may contribute around $300.

With this program for younger children successfully under way, consideration is now being given to the film interests of teen-agers. A great deal of work remains to be done by the Film Councils of Canada in promoting and presenting a teen age program. Another indirect result of the children's pooled programs is a desire for an adult pooled program, with printed programs, for the rural areas. This, too, will make its debut in 1957. A further report will be presented Bulletin readers on the progress and promotion of the largest pooled series which which will cover the entire Kootenay region.

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16 mm SOUND MOTION PICTURES
Available for
"FIRE PREVENTION WEEK"
(Oct. 7 - 13)

Before They Happen 14 mins sd. b&w - 1.50
Spons. by Nat'l Board & N.Y. Brd of Fire Underwriters. Shows the work of fire prevention inspectors. Urges every home owner to be his own "fire marshal".

Cause For Alarm 14 mins sd. b&w - 5.00 per wk.
Produced by National Safety Council.
Instructs worker on the control of fires, how to turn in an alarm, how to meet situations in an emergency. Shows how the various classes of fire extinguishers are used and explains the theory of combustion.

Fire Risks With Underground Conveyors 18 mins sd. b&w
Produced by U.K.I.O. **2.00**
Causes of fires on mine conveyor belts, how correct pit maintenance can prevent many of them, and how the National Coal Research Board is developing new devices and materials to reduce these risks.

How To Fight A Fire In The Kitchen 5 mins sd. b&w 1.00
Produced for the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Points out that one of the most common types of fires is one which starts over a kitchen stove. Shows how such fires can be extinguished easily and quickly by using plain covers, wet towels or baking soda.

Sixty Seconds To Safety 10 mins sd. b&w - 1.00
Produced by Princeton Film Centre 1951.
Depicts fire prevention measures and stresses the importance of school fire drills in elementary and junior schools.

List of other films on Fire Prevention available from CFI and from Dominion Fire Commissioner, Department of Public Works, Ottawa.

INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR FILM FESTIVAL

1. An International Amateur Film Festival will be held in Asnieres, France on March 16, 17, 1957.

2. The Festival is open to all amateur film producers.

3. Categories include Voyage, Documentaire, Film de genre, Scenario, Chanson filmée, Dessin animé – marionettes, Scientifique.

4. Entries will be received until 31 December, 1956.

5. A fee of 500 francs to cover the cost of handling and returning the film must accompany each entry.

6. Films in other languages must be presented in a French version.

Anyone interested in further information may write C.F.I. for it.

New Norwegian Film

MAGIC FIDDLE 20 mins. sd. col. Rental 4.00

Produced for Norwegian Government by M. Forlong The Norwegian Ballet Company perform the ballet of "The Magic Fiddle". Choreography by Gerd Kjolaas.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA FILMS

Recently the University of California deposited seven of their films with the C.F.I. for Canadian distribution. These films are now available for both rentals and previews for purchase by writing to us. These films are:

	Rental
COLOR OF MAN, THE – 10 mins. sd. col.	3.00
CONCRETE QUALITY CONTROL TESTS 15 mins. sd. col.	4.50
CRUCIFIXITION – 14 mins. sd. b&w	3.00
FOREMAN DISCOVERS MOTION STUDY, THE 16 mins. sd. b&w	3.00
MAKING A STAINED GLASS WINDOW 22 mins. sd. col.	6.00
TECHNIQUE OF FOIL FENCING 10 mins. sil. b&w	1.00
VOLCANO – 13 mins. sd. col.	4.50

Descriptions supplied on request. Anyone interested in having prints of these imported for purchase should contact C.F.I. We will make the necessary arrangements. All films are now available for rental, and may be ordered in the usual way.

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16MM FILM DISTRIBUTION

According to the "Survey of Libraties" for 1952-54, published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, there are 111 libraries in Canada with film facilities. These include 63 public libraries, 21 universities and colleges, 12 business, professional & technical, 9 Federal Government, and 6 Provincial Government libraries. Fifty-seven of these are located in Otario.

NOTICE TO C.F.I. MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Film Institute will be held in the

TORONTO NATIONAL FILM BOARD OFFICE

70 YORKVILLE STREET,

TORONTO, ONTARIO.

OCTOBER 24TH, 1956.

Beginning at 2:00 P.M.

FILM LIBRARY RECORDS

C.F.I. has prepared two simple library records - a film record card and a combination booking and invoice form. These have been reproduced below.

The actual size of the film record card is 8½ x 11. This card has space for approximately 50 entries. The booking and invoice form is 5½ x 8½ and contains space for all the information required on these forms.

sd. ( )

sd. ( ) b&w ( )
sil. ( ) col ( )

Service Charge:_____ (TITLE OF FILM)

Category:

Running Time:___reel(s)_____minutes Permanent ( ) Extended Loan ( ) Temporary ( )

Deposited by:_____ Date Acquited_____

Shipping Date	BORROWER	Showing Date	Due Date	Date Returned	Type of Audience	Size of Audience	No. of Showings

Film Record Card available at 5 cents each
25 for $1.00
50 for $1.50
Over 50 three cents each

Date Film to be picked up	Date of Showing	Due date of return	Date returned

_____ Film Library

Name of borrower_____ CASH ( )

Address _____ CHARGE( )

Telephone _____ _____

Film Titles	No. of Reels	Price	

Type of Audience
_____

Size of Audience
_____

No. of Showings
_____

Booking and Invoice Form available at 2 cents each
50 for .75
100 and over 1 cent each